

IX.—Note on the black and brown *Floriken* of Guzerat. By Lieutenant
GEORGE FULLJAMES.

Having been induced from reading Colonel SYKES' catalogue of birds in the Deccan to make some observations of the *Otis fulva* and *Otis aurita*, I have the pleasure to send you the following remarks for insertion in your journal.

The *Otis fulva* or brown *Floriken* is a bird common to our side of India, and is found at all seasons of the year in the Deccan particularly; in *Guzerat* however they are more frequently found on the near approach of the monsoon, and in the year 1834 were so plentiful that I bagged no less than 79. Almost the whole of these I examined; and from the facts ascertained, I am of opinion that the *Otis aurita* or black *Floriken* is the cock bird of the *Otis fulva*; that he is only to be found in his black plumage during the monsoon. That he commences changing his feathers early in April and continues molting till June, when he has generally become the black *Floriken*. That at this season he never weighs more than 1 lb. 4 oz. avoirdupois, and seldom so much; while the brown or hen bird weighs at least 1 lb. 8 oz.

That you rarely see the two together at this season, and that I have shot them in all stages of their moulting until I got the perfect black *Floriken*, and on examination have invariably found the testes most fully developed; while in the brown or hen birds the ova have been equally distinct.

They are so plentiful sometimes in *Guzerat* that they may be bought from the Wagrees alive for a few pice.

I am of opinion also that the *Floriken* migrates, but from what part of India I know not. I once heard of a flight being seen coming from the north and going in an easterly direction, but cannot vouch for the fact.

One observation has often occurred to me, which is, I have never shot the bird losing his black feathers and becoming brown; and the only way I can account for it, is that either the bird leaves the country, or it being at that season of the year when a sportsman seldom ventures out, the whole country being covered with vegetation, and the *Floriken* being remarkably quick in hearing they escape unroused.

This one fact I will venture to assert, that no person has ever yet shot a black *Floriken* with the ova developed; it therefore only remains to be proved whether the cock bird undergoes these changes yearly or not, and which will be difficult to ascertain, for in confinement I find they do not thrive, having frequently attempted in vain to keep them.